CASPeR

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

CENTER

The Center for Alternate Strategies of Parasite Removal (CASPeR), in its second and last year of funding, has developed a safe, nontoxic and rapid treatment for Pediculosis (head lice), a multi-billion dollar, increasingly resistant problem afflicting some 25% of children by the time they are teenagers.

TECHNOLOGY

CASPeR has developed a device, the LouseBuster™, which is a revolutionary new approach for eradicating head lice. By rapidly desiccating (drying) the lice out with blasts of warm air applied to the scalp, the Lousebuster kills lice and their nits (eggs) without using powerful chemicals. The LouseBuster™ blows more than twice as much air as a standard blow dryer, but at a slightly cooler temperature. The person administering the treatment uses a fine tooth comb to lift the hair so that the air can reach the lice and nits, which usually die in less than 30 seconds. Notably, the LouseBuster™ also kills the nits, which shampoos have never been able to do. A successful whole-head treatment usually takes less than 30 minutes and has been shown to be effective in Florida, a humid environment as well as the dry Utah environment.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CASPeR completed the development of the beta prototype and has tested a hand-held prototype of the LouseBuster™ that may be available in the future for serial treatments. In addition, consumable treatment kits have been developed.

The LouseBuster™ technology has been licensed to a Center spinout company, Larada Sciences Inc, and relationships have been built with 5 school districts encompassing 205 elementary schools. CASPeR also filed a new patent application and received $300,000 in funding from the NSF.

The Center's technology has received worldwide recognition, and has been featured on all major network news programs, as well as in major publications such as the New York Times, London Times, LA Times, Pediatrics Journal, and WebMD.com.

THINK TANK

What if there was...

A one-step treatment that completely eradicates head lice and their eggs without chemicals?

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